FBIS-MEA-80-059
Tuesday
25 March 1980
Vol V No 059 Supp 071

Supplement

Daily Report

MIDDLE EAST & NORTH AFRICA

REPORTAGE ON EVENTS IN IRAN

FBIS FOREIGN BROADCAST INFORMATION SERVICE

V/SUP

N O T I C E

Effective 1 April, the Iran and South Asia sections of the FBIS Middle East & North Africa DAILY REPORT will be incorporated into a new South Asia DAILY REPORT. The Middle East & North Africa DAILY REPORT will be renamed Middle East & Africa and will include material on Sub-Saharan Africa effective the same date.

Most Government subscribers will automatically receive both books. Those who prefer to receive only one book, should contact their distribution control office or FBIS, (Area Code 703 527-2368). NTIS subscribers who wish to receive both reports at no extra charge should call NTIS immediately, (Area Code 703 557-4630).

This publication contains current news and commentary monitored by FBIS from foreign broadcasts, news agency transmissions, newspapers, and periodicals. Items are processed from the first or best available source; it should not be inferred that they have been disseminated only in the medium, in the language, or to the area indicated. Items from foreign-language sources are translated by FBIS. Those from English-language sources are transcribed, with the original phrasing and other characteristics retained.

Headlines, editorial reports, and material enclosed in brackets [ ] are supplied by FBIS. Labels such as [Text] or [Excerpts] in the first line of each item indicate how FBIS processed the information from the original. Names rendered phonetically or in transliteration are enclosed in parentheses. Words or names preceded by a question mark and enclosed in parentheses were not clearly heard but have been supplied as appropriate to the context. Other unattributed parenthetical notes within the body of an item originate with the source. Times within items are as given by the source.

Users of this publication may cite FBIS provided they do so in a manner clearly identifying it as the secondary source. For example: "FBIS reports that Radio Moscow announced . . ." or "FBIS has monitored a broadcast from Hanoi which says . . ."

This is a U.S. Government publication. Its contents in no way represent the policies, views, or attitudes of the U.S. Government.

SUBSCRIPTION INFORMATION

DAILY REPORT volumes are published Monday through Friday in both paper version (mailed daily) and microfiche version (mailed weekly). The annual subscription fee for the paper version within the United States, Canada, and Mexico is $150 for any one volume and $50 for each additional volume. This includes occasional supplements. In microfiche the fee is $100 for any one volume, $125 for two volumes, $150 for three, $200 for four, $250 for five, $300 for six, $350 for seven, and $400 for all eight volumes. Foreign subscriptions outside North America are available from appointed foreign dealers or from NTIS. For subscription information contact NTIS. Phone 557-4630 (area code 703) or write to the address shown below.

U.S. Government officials may obtain subscriptions at no charge directly from FBIS. Phone 527-2368 (area code 703) or write P.O. Box 2604, Washington, D.C. 20013.

The volumes are: I – People's Republic of China; II – Eastern Europe; III – Soviet Union; IV – Asia & Pacific; V – Middle East & North Africa; VI – Latin America; VII – Western Europe; VIII – Sub-Saharan Africa. Back issues or single copies are not available. Allow 30 days for processing new subscriptions. Mail remittances, inquiries, and address changes to the NTIS address below.

Note: The publications of the Joint Publications Research Service (JPRS), which are sometimes cited in the DAILY REPORT, can also be ordered from NTIS in single copies or by subscription. In ordering, please cite the JPRS title, number, date and author if applicable.

Both the DAILY REPORT and JPRS publications are on file for public reference at the Library of Congress and at public and university libraries throughout the United States.

NTIS

National Technical Information Service
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Springfield, Virginia 22151

FBIS DAILY REPORT

CONTENTS

Middle East & North Africa

Vol V No 059 Supp 071 *25 March 1980*

Reportage on Events in Iran

Developments Concerning U.S. Relations, Hostages 1
Clerics Call for March 1
March to U.S. Embassy 1
AFP on March 1
Students' Statement to Demonstrators 2
Denunciation of U.S., As-Sadat 2
Waldheim on Shah's Departure 3
Bani-Sadr Remarks on Shah 3
Bani-Sadr AFP Interview 4
Qotbzadeh on Situation, Hostages 5
Qotbzadeh Interview 6
President Bani-Sadr's Activities Reported 6
Friday Prayers Speech 6
Gonbad Address 14
Departure for Hamadan City 14
Ayatollahs Discuss National, Regional Problems 14
Shari'at-Madari Interview 14
Montazeri Address 16
Developments Concerning Majles Elections 16
Composition of Investigative Committee 16
Voting Irregularities 17
Voting in Kordestan [KEYHAN 15 Mar] 17
Sanjabi on Identification Cards [TIMES 12 Mar] 18
Clergyman Calls for Defense of Oil Pipelines 18
Economic Issues Reported, Discussed 19
Prices of Consumer Goods [TIMES 9 Mar] 19
Shortages of Goods [TIMES 12 Mar] 20
Violence, Unrest Reported, Discussed 21
Demonstration by Piranshah Unemployed 21
Arab Protest in Ahvaz 22
Khuzestan Organization Statement 23
Urumiyeh Division's Statement 23
Governor on Recent Disturbances 24
Release of Tabriz Prisoners 24
More Releases; 'Spy's' Arrest 24
Reportage on Situation in Kordestan Province 25
Economic Sanctions Against Kurds 25
Release of Hostages 25
'Relatively Strong' Earthquake Occurs in Khvoy 25

AZADEGAN Criticized for Defaming Prominent Persons 26
[TIMES 12 Mar]
Reportage on International Developments 26
Casualties in Afghanistan Fighting 26
Muslim Victories in Afghanistan 26
Bani-Sadr Proposal for Commission 27
Tabataba'i on Afghan Rebels 27
Iraqi Kurd's Message to Khomeyni 28
Kurdish Congratulations to Bani-Sadr 28

DEVELOPMENTS CONCERNING U.S. RELATIONS, HOSTAGES

Clerics Call for March

LD241158 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1125 GMT 24 Mar 80 LD

[Unscheduled announcement]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. In these crucial times, when U.S. imperialism has embarked on a fresh plot against the Iranian Muslims and the Islamic Revolution and when, in order to contaminate the pure blood of our martyrs, it is transferring the criminal Mohammad Reza Pahlavi from Panama to Egypt--an Islamic country--the clerical community, in harmony with the imam's historic message, invites all groups and strata to stage an organized and glorious march in order to express their hatred against this treacherous plot by America; and while condemning all plots hatched by Eastern and Western imperialism, it will unreservedly provide all its reserves and forces in order to achieve the imam's objectives and wishes, which are precisely the needs of our revolutionary society.

Consequently, we appeal to the heroic and Muslim inhabitants of Tehran and the rest of the country to take part in this march with an ever-increasing solidarity and might.

The march will take place in Tehran tomorrow, starting from various parts of Tehran and proceeding toward the U.S. espionage den.

March to U.S. Embassy

LD251010 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0935 GMT 25 Mar 80 LD

[Text] Following the escape of the treacherous Mohammad Reza Pahlavi to Egypt and the announcement of the march organized by the religious community, huge crowds of people of Tehran marched toward the American den of espionage this morning. Then marchers gathered in front of the den. The ceremony began with speeches by Hojjat ol-Eslam Rastgari, representing the religious community, and Ayatollah Khosroshahi. Then the statement issued by the Muslim student followers of the imam's policy was read out and Mr Rowhani made a speech. After the resolution passed by the marchers was read out, letters written in support of the Muslim student followers of the imam's policy by different groups and organizations were read out too. According to our reporter, the ceremony is still in progress. A detailed report on this march will be brought to your attention in later newscasts.

AFP on March

NC250715 Paris AFP in English 0654 GMT 25 Mar 80 NC

[Text] Tehran, March 28 (AFP)--Thousands of demonstrators, led by religious figures, descended on the United States' Embassy here today to protest the deposed shah of Iran's move to Egypt.

"Traitor shah, how long will you hide from God's justice... for how long are you going to escape," the demonstators chanted outside the embassy compound, where 50 Americans have been held hostage for 141 days to back demands for the shah's return.

The first public protest at the ex-shah's flight to Egypt yesterday was organised by religious teachers in the holy city of Qom, home of the country's revolutionary leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni, Tehran religious progressists, Revolutionary Guards and the Khomeyni committees.

Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi left his exile home in Panama late Sunday only 24 hours before lawyers were to present an Iranian demand for his extradition for alleged crimes during his reign. He arrived in Egypt yesterday, where he was to have surgery to remove an enlarged spleen.

Students' Statement to Demonstrators

NC251020 Paris AFP in English 1011 GMT 25 Mar 80 NC

[Text] Tehran, March 25 (AFP)--The shah's trip to Egypt was a new American "plot to support the shah", a spokesman of the Islamic students holding the American hostages said today.

Speaking from the embassy to tens of thousands of Iranians demonstrating support outside, the spokesman affirmed that "the shah's transfer by a criminal, Zionist country (the United States) will never resolve the problem of the (50) hostages."

The student leader thanked Panama's people for "not letting the shah stay any longer". The spokesman said he hoped that "the brothers and sisters in Egypt will expell (President Anwar) as-Sadat and the shah.

"Dear Egyptian nation, don't let your government make decisions that are shameful for Islamic countries... we should battle against the cruel superpowers with the Koran in one hand and a rifle in the other. That is the way to carry out our revolution."

Denunciation of U.S., As-Sadat

NC251140 Paris AFP in English 1104 GMT 25 Mar 80 NC

[Nick Phythian report]

[Excerpts] Tehran, March 25 (AFP)--Tens of thousands of demonstrators massed before the U.S. Embassy here today denouncing the ex-shah, the United States and President Anwar as-Sadat of Egypt in a demonstration marking a return to the revolutionary spotlight of the ordinary Iranian clergy.

The demonstration, called principally by different groups of clergy, was the first public response to the "flight" to Egypt of the ex-shah on the eve of Iran's submission of its case for his extradition from Panama. It also reflected the end of Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni's "Now Ruz" (New Year) message in which the 79-year-old revolutionary guide warned the people of plots to defame the clergy and called on all Iranians to support them.

One or two banners denounced both the superpowers--the United States and the Soviet Union--a theme that in recent weeks has expanded the scope of Iranian revolutionary rhetoric from a purely anti-American stance.

A group of turbaned mullahs from the capital meanwhile gathered in front of the embassy gates to hear their representatives address the crowd alongside the students' spokesmen, from an improvised platform on the top of the embassy gatehouse. All denounced the "treacherous" action of President as-Sadat and the United States. The fighting clergy of Tehran, one of the groups that called the demonstration, issued a ten point resolution to coincide with the march. One of the ten points said the hostage problem could only be solved through the return of the ex-shah and his wealth. The alternative, the resolution continued, was for all the hostages to be tried before Revolutionary Courts by representatives of the future Islamic assembly.

Waldheim on Shah's Departure

LD250200 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0130 GMT 25 Mar 80 LD

[Text] UN Secretary General Kurt Waldheim has stated: The unexpected departure of the deposed shah to Egypt has created new difficulties for attempts which are underway for the release of the hostages. The spokesman for Waldheim added: Nevertheless, the UN secretary general is determined to continue his attempts to find a peaceful solution.

On the other hand, the representative and observer of the Arab Union [Ettehadiyehe Arab] in the United Nations said: The departure of Mohammad Reza Pahlavi to Egypt will create difficulties for our attempts to find a peaceful solution. In response to questions by reporters, he emphasized that the deposed shah cannot be regarded as the guest of an Arab country. He has only been invited by the president of a country, a country whose membership in the Arab Union has been suspended.

Bani-Sadr Remarks on Shah

LD241732 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1634 GMT 24 Mar 80 LD

[Excerpts] Seyyed Abolhasan Bani-Sadr the president and commander in chief of the Armed Forces of the Iranian Islamic Republic, this morning arrived at the Nojeh air base in Hamadan to investigate the problems of the Hamadan people.

According to our colleagues in the Voice and Profile of the Iranian Islamic Republic, Hamadan center, Mr Bani-Sadr in a radio and television interview today, while surveying the existing problems in the Province of Hamadan stated: In the country's current budget, in addition to the state budget allocations for current expenditures in the country, about 67 billion tomans have also been earmarked for the country's provinces as a development budget.

Meanwhile, in an interview with a correspondent of the PARS NEWS AGENCY in Hamadan, Dr Abolhasan Bani-Sadr, in answer to a question as to what became of the issue of the extradition of Mohammad Reza Pahlavi, said: Certain measures have been taken in this regard. Unfortunately, however, thanks to many mistaken actions we have so far not succeeded in this matter.

Regarding the elections, Dr Bani-Sadr said: What is certain is that the people should elect someone who, I think, would be able to work with the president in a harmonized Majles. The people can elect anyone they like. Thus neither the Friday prayer is a suitable occasion for announcing candidates, nor one particular group is entitled to impose its views on others by means of sit-ins or such like. As far as I am able I would not submit to a rigged Majles. Thus, any election conducted improperly in any area will be canceled so that the principle of the Majles will not be damaged. An investigation will be instituted in any area where there has been cheating in the election.

In answer to a question by the correspondent of the PARS NEWS AGENCY regarding what measures had been taken concerning the spread of unemployment across the country, Dr Bani-Sadr said: What we can do is to provide budget and general facilities, removing obstacles and providing legal facilities; the rest is up to the local authorities and the people. If nothing is done in this regard, one should put it to the people themselves by asking them: Why were you complacent? So, it is our job to approve the budget, and the preparation of projects is the job of local authorities.

Thus, if there is any unemployment, the city and provincial officials are responsible for it. We cannot enlarge the administrative apparatus in order to overcome unemployment. for one-fifth of the existing government employees are enough for the country, and the remainder should be engaged in productive jobs.

According to our colleagues in the Voice and Profile of the Iranian Islamic Republic, Hamadan center, Mr Bani-Sadr arrived at Nojeh for another inspection of the air base and following a 1-hour speech left the Nojeh air base for Tehran this evening.

Bani-Sadr AFP Interview

LD251040 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0938 GMT 25 Mar 80 LD

[Text] According to AFP, Abolhasan Bani-Sadr, the president of Iran, gave an interview with AFP, in which he said: The multiplicity of independent decisionmaking centers in Iran and America has rendered the plans for the extradition of the deposed shah from Panama fruitless. Abolhasan Bani-Sadr said: I cannot say who is responsible for this, Carter or someone else, I am not in a position to say. Bani-Sadr added: The shah's extradition and his trip to Egypt is not an issue of international law. It just demonstrates that legal procedures are used as an excuse, and the main problem for them is the law of force and the balance of power.

Bani-Sadr again emphasized that the fate of the American hostages in Tehran depends on the future of the Majles, and that he has always announced that the shah's extradition should not be related to the fate of the American hostages, since for us Iranians this extradition is an endeavor in the interests of all humanity, and we think that this incident will open a new chapter in the history of man in which the will of the people will be the only factor considered.

The president of Iran said that he is amazed that nothing has been done during the past 14 months, since the victory of the Iranian Revolution, to expose the policies of the United States in Iran. He said: Every time we set out to expose U.S. domination something happens to prevent it. Bani-Sadr then said: The relationship between the oppressed masses and the oppressors should be delineated and the world should know that our immediate goal is the realization of our plan for real independence. Bani-Sadr also said that he agrees with transferring the hostages and putting them under the custody of the Revolution Council, mainly because it is necessary that there should be no other source of legality than the official authorities and the government for the extradition of the deposed shah. Bani-Sadr said: If Mohammad Reza Pahlavi were to remain in Panama I would not disagree with the transfer of American hostages, and in my opinion, the Muslim student followers of the imam's policy would not have opposed this decision either. Our president said that twice he thought the shah's extradition was close at hand but both times his hopes were shattered.

Answering a question regarding the return of the members of the international investigative council to Tehran, the president said: This depends on the internal affairs of Iran and decisionmaking centers inside the United States. He added that each group uses the situation outside the American Embassy to their own benefit. Bani-Sadr said that he intends to take measures to counter the multiplicity of decisionmaking centers in Iran, and said measures will mainly apply to the army, government organizations and offices in the cities. He said: The role of the government is to prevent the return of dictatorship.

Qotbzadeh on Situation, Hostages

LD241737 Rome Domestic Service in Italian 0700 GMT 24 Mar 80 LD

[Text] Prior to his return from Tehran, Pietro Buttitta interviewed Foreign Minister Sadeq Qotbzadeh:

Here in Tehran, semi-deserted because of the Iranian New Year festivities, with shops locked and barred, public buildings closed, and newspapers suspending publication for 1 week, it is difficult to find anyone at his normal place of work. Among the few, there is obviously Foreign Minister Qotbzadeh intent on maintaining relations between Iran and the rest of the world.

Therefore, in a nearly empty ministry, the Iranian foreign minister once again agreed to receive me and answer frankly a long series of questions. I asked him to sum up the situation in the Middle East since the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan and I obtained from him a series of indications on the Iranian attitude toward a vast range of problems. I will now summarize them.

Iran not only does not approve the Soviet intervention in the adjacent Islamic country but, while desiring to maintain good-neighborly relations with the Soviet Union, will help the Afghan resistance in every way.

I asked him to explain what he means by "in every way," and Qotbzadeh answered: In every, absolutely every way.

As from now? I asked, and I received a sharp reply: From the first moment.

Does Iran perhaps want to export its revolution, I asked in reference to the Gulf countries, and I got the following reply: It depends on what you mean by "export." We are seeking in any case (?to make it) possible for our ideas and the meaning of our revolution to find the widest possible audience in the Islamic countries and throughout the entire world.

I then asked him about relations with Italy. He answered that they are good but they could become even better if Italy succeeded in demonstrating on every occasion its own absolute independence from the United States. He said literally that Iran wants to have the closest possible relations with Italy. Should obstacles arise, they will not come from us but, as usual, from America.

At this point I found myself obliged to ask him his opinion on the nuclear agreement between Italy and Iraq, an agreement which has not been approved by the Americans.

The White House's opinion apart, said Qotbzadeh, the agreement concluded by Italy is a bad piece of business. Iraq has a government which will be unable to maintain itself in power for more than another 2 or 3 years. Italy has nonetheless agreed to negotiate with people who are already defeated, a very harsh judgement which does not allow any comment.

I then asked him for some comments on the matter of the American hostages. His answer was quick: It will be up to the next Parliament, during its first sessions, to decide on a matter which (?no longer) serves the interests of Iran.

And the students occupying the United States Embassy, I asked him? The reply was not long in coming: I have already said what I think of them.

I repeat that even though their initial state of mind could be considered (?justified), their refusal to obey the instructions of the Council of the Revolution shows them in a bad light, a very bad light, and he did not add anything further.

Leaving the ministry, I found the city emptied by the festive season. The time of the revolution seems really distant now.

Qotbzadeh Interview

LD251100 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0930 GMT 25 Mar 80 LD

[Text] Foreign Minister Sadeq Qotbzadeh has said in a talk in connection with shah's departure from Panama: This is a relatively big victory for us.

The minister of foreign affairs added: We will continue the procedure for the shah's extradition in Panama.

PRESIDENT BANI-SADR'S ACTIVITIES REPORTED

Friday Prayers Speech

LD211424 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1022 GMT 21 Mar 80 LD

[Speech by Iranian President Abolhasan Bani-Sadr at Behesht-e Zahra Cemetery in Tehran during Friday prayers on 21 March--recorded]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. May the new year be a year of blessing for our martyrs and you. Having gathered here in the presence of our martyrs, let us say a prayer for their souls, for the soul of Taleqani, for the souls of the martyrs lying in blood and dust. [brief silence while all say their prayers]

My dear sisters and brothers heard the imam's message. You heard that our people's responsibility in the current year, my own responsibility as your president, is to establish order and security in Iran and to prepare the ground for economic progress and political and cultural power, so that we may be able to undertake our role in the world as [word indistinct] leader and (?friend) of the oppressed but liberated Muslim nations. I hope that all our soldiers, the army and the guards have truly obeyed the imam's order, knowing that, having been entrusted with the responsibility through the message, I will have no choice but to demonstrate utmost seriousness and decisiveness in order to establish total order and discipline in the guards, the army, the police department and the gendarmerie. [shouts of approval by the crowd followed by shouts of God is great]

Our nation cannot let these crucial days, which are very important in our history and that of human history, to go to waste, simply because some people want to get involved in disputes. Our people want the country's problems to be solved speedily; our people want our economy to progress rapidly; our people want work and production to replace insecurity in towns and villages; our people want an end to discriminations, while order and discipline are maintained, without harming production.

Now, starting our new year, it is necessary to briefly report to you of the events in our country during last year, so that I may give an annual report to the revolutionary Iranian people. I will devote the end of this report to those proposals with which our people, by implementing them, should prepare the grounds for fulfilling the global role of the Iranian Revolution.

In the past year, important measures were taken in the economic field. All of you know that, in the main, industry was nationalized. You know that last year all banks were nationalized, and insurance and public supplies were nationalized. Consequently, we prepared the ground for the implementation of economic projects during the new year.

As for the oil industry, by reducing production and raising prices, we pursued a rational policy. This policy not only resulted in keeping our enormous oil resources for the future generation, but we managed to increase the revenues from oil. So that you may understand the difference between the trivial involvements with regard to the little less or little more [oil production] and the struggle for the country's independence, I will explain to you these two figures: the reason we have only had 45 percent production, that is, we have reduced production by 55 percent, is that by doing so we have increased the life expectancy of our oilfields by more than 40 years. The price of such oil, at today's rate, is something between $25 to 30 billion. This means that the money which used to be plundered under the former shah, is now being retrieved. In other words, our people have retrieved annually $25-30 billion--the money which used to be plundered and stolen. However, as I pointed out on the day of the oil industry nationalization, should we establish an oil industry in our own country, then each year we can come and report to you that so many billions of dollars which used to be plundered have been retrieved.

I will only cite a few figures to help you realize that if you work hard, if you avoid clashes and disputes and truly go after production and industrialization, what possibilities await us. If in this new year we reactivate industry, reactivate the petrochemical industry, then, I tell you here and now, we will retrieve the same amount they used to take away from this country. Now, supposing we manage to return to this country annually between $40 to 50 billion, the wealth they used to take out of this country, now if we spend this sum for production and economic growth, do you think there would be anyone unemployed in Iran? If during the past year we could not absorb the unemployed, it was not entirely the government's fault, for the government approved its development budget. However, owing to the troubles created for the government, the funds allocated for such a purpose could not be spent. In order to spend the money, factories must resume operation, so that they can be expanded. Farms should be cultivated and then money spent on them. If we are to spend all our time in clashes, strikes and such like, then the only people suffering from these will be the oppressed and no one else. So, the wealth they used to plunder from this country will continue to be plundered.

During last year, in one particular respect, the final task which we managed to complete was the land issue. This was in respect to formulating the economic legal relations. I hope all those wishing to supply people's requirements from land will remain hopeful that in the current year there will be no land problem.

Having accomplished this, now let us refer to the question of production. According to a report handed to me yesterday, we made some progress in the field of agriculture during last year. Wheat production was much more than during the final year of the shah's regime. We hope that during this year our people may be able to consume homegrown wheat and, God willing, there will be no need to import wheat, or at least to import wheat in very small quantities. Consequently, as far as the question of agriculture is concerned, we have made progress. Fortunately, our farmers did not create much clamor, did not resort to clashes among themselves and, as a result, produced more.

Therefore, our nation is indebted to our hard-working and resilient farmers. We hope that during the current year, considering the increased bank credits provided them and having prepared the means of agriculture and resolved the land issue, we may, God willing, become a country which could once again export agricultural produce.

However as far as industry is concerned, sadly the situation is bad. That is, not only have we not raised production, rather we have reduced it considerably. When you see prices rising, it should be noted that it is not entirely due to noneconomic factors; there are certain economic factors at play. One of them is this very thing: production is not adequate. Consequently, I am going to ask the Ministry of Industry to run the nationalized industry on a new basis, the basis being the government and as the government belongs to the nation, therefore it is not appropriate for us to spend oil revenues for example, to pay salaries in factories. This is an expenditure unheard of anywhere in the world. The ministry should tell employees and workers of each factory that this is a national asset under their control and to start producing. Whatever is earned from production, apart from what goes toward depreciation of the machinery, is yours; but you must produce and then take the profits. The government does not want any profit. Whatever there is is yours, providing you, yourself, produce and then reap the benefit. Otherwise, if next year's industrial situation is like this past year and we fail to produce adequately, then the rate of inflation will increase to such an extent and degree that it will exhaust the patience of all the people. When your patience is exhausted you will come to me. And as you know there is a limit to what I can do. There might come a time when I will not be able to tolerate any more.

Therefore, since I don't want you to come to me as a last resort and I want to enjoy your affection and support all the time, we should talk (?frankly) today. Work and reap the results. If you did not work and you came to me saying that you have not worked and the fault is mine because you have not been provided with the raw material, this would not be acceptable and the people would not accept it either. The people say... [interrupted by shouts of "God is great"].

But, about prices: our situation is not too bright regarding prices. You know that prices have risen during the past year, especially foodstuffs. According to the reports from the Central Bank, prices have risen by 5 rials per toman. We hope that we have been able to solve the problem of meat and (?poultry) as from the end of last year, since the primary stages of solving these problems have been finalized and the plans are to be implemented. But, about these problems, if we do not produce enough, in order to keep the price low we will have to import from abroad; we will have to spend some of the oil money to import these products and we will have to spend the same amount again from oil revenues to subsidize them and supply them for public consumption. This is a loss the country will suffer. A better way would be to spend the money we have on the land.

The other day I went and talked to my brothers and sisters in shanty towns. I told them--in those huts which made me ashamed at being the president; the fact that there are human beings who live in this kind of place near us and we do not think about them--this is no place to live; they have ruined your lives; they have brought you here; we hope that in the new year we will be able to spend the money we have in the rural areas and build new villages; prepare the means of work. You should not worry; we will provide you with the means of your work and livelihood until you are able to produce enough; then you will be able to live off your own production. If we do not do this we will not succeed in increasing production or bringing down prices, nor will we be able to save Tehran or any other city from the depressing state it is in at the moment.

The basis is to solve the problem of prices. Some of it is in the hands of the people and they should not submit to high prices. They have come to me and told me that you have told us that if goods are overpriced people will come and complain to you. Well do not overcharge people. Keep prices down. How can it be that within a short distance of the slum areas prices are three times higher? Those who overprice their goods call themselves human beings? What can we do? You say that if people will not listen then forceful measures should be taken. Well, people, at first I will warn you but if you do not listen then you will be paid a visit. But you have promised that there is no need for a visit and that you will bring the prices down. We will wait, a week, 10 days, if you keep to your promise, fine. If you don't, then we will pay you a visit and remind you of your promise and ask you what to do. [shouts of approval]

Altogether, from the economic point of view, we have an advantage in that we have not wasted the oil revenue. To a certain extent, more or less, we have managed not to waste this money. They say that ministers of finance and economy should be thrifty. This is not with respect to the expenditures to increase the production but in respect to not allowing the foreigners to take it. But, our economy is not yet running smoothly altogether, as we would like it to be. Therefore you, my worker brothers, should know that our interests do not lie in your suffering economically. Quite the reverse, we would like all the people to live comfortably. But, in order to live comfortably, we should produce more. There is no other solution. Those who come and persuade you otherwise are lying. You should tell these people: If you are telling the truth, go on the radio and television where you can discuss your views and everybody can hear. If your argument is convincing then we will follow your lead. Whispering in the ears of people who do not know the issues and misrepresenting the issues and causing the production in Iran to fall, this will obviously throw Iran into the grip of the two super-powers. [shouts of "Long live Bani-Sadr"]

This was the economic side of the affairs. Regarding the international economy, we have decided to cut the connection between the rial and the dollar. Our program is to separate our accounts with Europe from that of America and thus deal with the American dollar once and for all. Unfortunately, we did not follow the right policy; we followed the wrong policy and the result was that dollar which was falling in value after the severence of its connection with rial is now going up again. If we want to get rid of the influence of superpowers on us and the oppressed nations of the world, we should be strong; we should be strong internally, we should be strong in not letting them interfere in our lives. This way we can tell our Muslim brothers to learn from us. We should know that all the oppressed people are ready to accept the lead of our country. In order to be able to accept this duty in the world of the oppressed, it is necessary to be strong. In that free discussion session I said that each grain not sown is a service to imperialism, any unit of production not produced is a service to imperialism. Now, each grain sown, each industrial product produced is a service to all the deprived and oppressed people of the world in that it enables you to teach a lesson to the deprived and lead them and prepare to play an international role. I assure you that if you do away with strikes and protests--these are not in the interests of the nation and the government of the oppressed--and start working within this same year Russia will be forced to leave Afghanistan and Saddam Husayn from Iraq. With your work you will be able to spread the wave or Iranian Revolution all over the world, and when the whole world revolts, our nation can rest assured that it has saved its future.

From the political point of view, our position during the last year has been as I will explain. From the internal policies point of view, we ratified the constitution, completed the presidential elections and completed the first round of the Majles elections. As the imam said: The elections as a whole should not be rejected. Wherever there have been violations of election regulations the matter will be carefully investigated.

Why? Because, [shouts of "God is great"] the Islamic Majles, the Majles of an Islamic society should be a strong Majles and the means of our country's stability. If this Majles is weak and, God forbid, bears a mark of fraudulence on its head, then this Majles will not be stable enough to withstand incidents. Therefore, if there have been cases of fraudulence in elections, the seven-man mission ratified by the Revolution Council will investigate these cases carefully, and there is no cause for worry. We will not allow the representatives of the Islamic Majles to bear the slightest suspicion of fraud. Therefore, with the grace of God, the Majles elections will be completed and, from the political point of view, the legal means of the implementation of the constitution will be ready.

Inside the country, there have been disturbances in a few places and they still persist in some places. You all know that there have been conspiracies all over the country. In two places, God willing, we have managed to root out the problem and conspiracies have been eliminated, first in Azarbayjan and the second time in Gonbad. About Kordestan: the situation is not as grim as it was before, but it still cannot be described as favorable. Why? The reason is this: we cannot agree to hand over a part of our soil to the armed forces when we are not sure that they love their country, their Islamic country, when we are not sure that they will not lead our country toward fragmentation. This is nonsense and pure fantasy and will never be. As I said about industrial workshops just now, when we ask people who produce goods to cooperate and help to run their workshop, how can we deprive different regions of the country from the same right? This means that we should give this right to the people. We will not give this right to those who claim to be the guardians of the people,how, the fighting will go on until this logic is accepted.

We receive information from this region that the people are dissatisfied. Those who want autonomy in the region claim that the information has been fabricated and that the people are satisfied. Alright, we accept your word. If you say that the people are satisfied, then put your firearms down, come here and take part in the elections. If people vote for you then you are elected, we will not argue with the will of the people. But do not come and use your firearms to impose your point. What is right does not need to be imposed; we follow what is right. The nation revolted in order to establish the right. Firearms cannot be used to impose the right of the people. As soon as we see the weapon we know that what you are saying is not right. Why did this nation revolt? If we said that you do not have the right to express your views, if we had not discussed the matter with you for 5 hours and were not ready to continue the discussions for many more hours, if we had not given you a newspaper, we would say that you are right: you have been suppressed, therefore you have resorted to weapons. You have been given all these things. What do you need the weapons for? You must be suffering from an ailment. It is because of the same ailment that wewill not submit to you.

As for Khuzestan: This Mr Saddam Husayn is sending his bomb experts here, for instance, to place a bomb here and blow up a pipeline and then escape, or at times to be captured. His ambassador came to me once. I told him: ask your boss, what have we done? This nation has been involved with such things for centuries. If you think that the clamor by the enemy, the bullet and gun of the enemy may bother us, I must say no, never. These things are music to our ears. [inha baray-e ma noql-o nabat ast]. They will not bother us at all. Regarding a friend, if I become heavy-hearted, for he is my friend, he is me. But, regarding an enemy, well this is to be expected. Therefore, I should not be bothered. What I should do is to make a plan and make him pay. [shouts of approval and "God is great," followed by shouts of "Greetings to Bani-Sadr"]

His ambassador said that there are two options: one, sit down and settle our problems. Well, we say you are quite welcome. They say, what do you concede if we stopped sending bomb experts? No, we know nothing about this sort of negotiations; if we had any idea about such negotiations, then we would have done so in the case of the shah and America. We never learned that sort of negotiations [words indistinct]. We will not enter into negotiations with you so that you may leave our country alone. We presume that you are assigned by America, or others other than America--however, it seems as if it is America--to play games in our homeland. Well, we will base our argument on the fact that we must neutralize you. Therefore, we will pursue that line. We hope that the inhabitants of Khuzestan will realize this: that it is their responsibility to safeguard that territory and the pipelines. They must demonstrate that people cannot come from abroad and cause trouble.

We, together with all the armed forces of the Islamic Republic, should know that it is their duty to crush these conspiracies decisively. [passage indistinct]

The fraternal nation of Iraq must remember that just as we were able to oust the agent of the U.S. superpower from Iran and successfully struggle against international plots, they too can do this; they too should end the reign of Saddam Husayn. [shouts of approval]

Well, these were the problems we experienced inside the country. Fortunately, the political atmosphere of our country is harmonious and united because of the imam's invaluable presence. In the past year, the foundations of our nation's unity were not damaged and we hope that in the new year, going toward the establishment of peace and security, job creation and increased production, we will strengthen this unity even more and with the grace of God we will be able to eliminate the cases of discrimination which damage the unity of our people, to a great extent.

As for foreign policy, you know that we have continued our struggle against America and should continue to do so. With regard to our eastern borders, the Muslims, struggling Afghan people are subjected to aggression. When Yasir 'Arafat was in Iran, the Russian Government sent a note through him, addressed to me, to the effect that since America and Pakistan are interfering in Afghanistan, since such and such things are taking place, therefore we have some representatives there, and once we are assured these interferences end, then we will return to our country, we will leave Afghanistan.

I sent a reply to the Russian Government through the same messenger. I said: You should agree to a five-member commission to study the situation in Afghanistan, and that Iran should be a member of this commission. Other members could be Algeria, Palestine, a European country, like Sweden, and a Latin American country. Then these five countries should see and study the situation. If they notice that both America and your esteemed self [referring to the USSR] are also there, then both of you must leave. However, if we see that, indeed, it is simply an excuse, that there is no trace of them [the U.S. and Pakistan] but it is you who (?are there), then you must gracefully withdraw. [shouts of approval]

They answered us directly. They sent a note to our foreign minister, believing it would be preferable. Well, sir, it was your own idea to send the message through that gentleman ['Arafat]. You could have done so directly from the beginning. At any rate, as far as we are concerned, we are saying the same thing, whether directly or indirectly, now in whatever manner, we are saying it now and you are probably hearing it. After all, you do not have cotton in your ears. What they were saying was, indeed, it is the Afghan Government which ought to decide.

Well, if it was up to the Afghan Government to decide, then what are you doing sending that gentleman to Tehran? Then you are lying. Then it is you who is deciding. Even that government is in your hand, there is no government; it is you who are there. You have set up a (?puppet) there, calling it government. The people there do not want it. If this was the case, then they would not give so many sacrifices, then there would be no trace of more than half a million homeless up to now.

Then, they said: We see no need for such a commission. Well, there is no need for you to make such a pronouncement, it is the Afghan nation which sees the need for you to leave the country. We did not make our proposal based on your need; it was based on our common need and that of the Afghan nation.

We had said that, to begin with, we could not tolerate the presence of your armed forces in our neighborhood. Secondly, we could not see, as our Islamic duty rules, a Muslim nation under the occupation of foreign forces; we cannot. Thirdly, in light of our global duty and as a revolutionary nation, we cannot tolerate such an overt aggression. Consequently, whether you want it or not, whether you like it or not, you must leave Afghanistan. [shouts of approval and "God is great"]

Now, if you can hear us, this is our proposal: you must make a statement without any condition or pretext and leave Afghanistan speedily. There is no need for any negotiations. [shouts of approval and God is great] if you claim that there are others involved there, then we will stand firm on our proposal.

At any rate, within the context of foreign policy, there are simultaneously two favorable and unfavorable processes as far as we are concerned. The unfavorable process is the occupation of Afghanistan by Russia and Mr Saddam Husayn's pushing his nose with regard to our borders. Then there is the question of Israel in Lebanon; that country is causing trouble there, while having entered into a deal with Mr Anwar as-Sadat. These are the unfavourable occurances.

The situation in Lebanon is bad. I hope that all the people of Lebanon, and especially Lebanese Shi'ites and our Sunnite brothers in Lebanon, join hands with our Palestinian brothers. If they are not united there, the enemy will destroy them one by one. They should not be deceived into confronting each other, which will result in Israel's domination.

These are the unfavorable processes from a political point of view. But, from other points of view, the wave of our Islamic Revolution has embraced all Islamic territories, thank God. As a result, every day the inclination of the people in Islamic countries has been more and more toward revolutionary movements. As I said before, if we move in time and establish revolutionary discipline inside our country we will solve our problems. Brothers and sisters, there is a time when one reaches a cesspool and cannot pass it and tries to imitate a crow and dip in and live off the cesspool. But there is a time when there is an opportunity to fly on the horizon like a falcon and fill the world with revolutionary fervor. Ours is the second case. Leave the petty life and prepare for your great revolutionary role in the world, with the grace of God, we will be able to unite Islamic territories so that Iran becomes the heart of these countries. We receive reports and messages saying that the imam's policy and our revolution is awakening the oppressed workers and peasants in Europe to realize the corrupt cultural atmosphere in which they are trapped. They are attracted to our revolution and have fixed their gaze on the shouts and slogans coming from our country. Therefore, we should realize this international role and act according to this great [word indistinct]. That worker, that farmer should know that one should work and produce at certain times and attend to one's intellectual thought at other times. One should prepared oneself to convey the message of our revolution to the world and mobilize humanity under the flag of monotheism. [shouts of "God is great"]

The first unfavorable process I referred to will only be eliminated through this favorable process, namely, the extension of the course of the revolution in the world, the extension of the wave of revolution all over the world. If you want to end this condition of being imprisoned from all sides by the superpowers, you should fly, you should become a falcon and fly. You should crush the followers of the superpowers like prey in your strong claws until they breathe their last breath in your hands so that humanity may rest. [shouts of "God is great"]

I don't have more than a few minutes before the commencement of Friday prayers, so I invite you to listen to a few proposals. We are a part of humanity at large but we are an independent part of humanity. We want the world to be united, like 'Ali, but not the way Russia wants it to be. Iranians will claim their rights like Iranians. The later Modarres said: If anybody violates our borders without our permission, first we knock him down. Then we go over to see if he is dead. If he is dead then we bury him according to Islamic traditions. If he isn't a Muslim then we bury him according to non-Islamic traditions. Therefore considering the world as a united entity is based on independence. Each country should have its own rights and be independent. We should maintain the fraternal attitudes and have our own rights as well. If we are to have that international role, we should have one eye on the other side of our borders and watch inside the borders with the other eye. You the guardsman brother, you the military officer, you the soldier in the army should know that you are in the service of all humanity. But this service should be toward defending the independence of Iran against outside powers and defending the rights of the oppressed so that you can be called the Army of the Islamic Republic of Iran the Guards of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

The second issue is that we have undertaken certain commitments and you have voted for us. But you have undertaken some commitments as well. If I am to do anything you should prepare the means. That is right, isn't it? Therefore, to all those who intend creating confusion, I say that they have been warned. I have said it and I intend to stick to my words. I am decisive in my [word indistinct]. That is to say, I do not have the pity on those who are conspiring to start armed confrontation. [shouts of "God is great"]

The imam is sure that I am able to carry out these commitments and that is why in his message today he left these to me. Now I cannot say that I am not worthy of that job. I should consider myself worthy of this job and I do. Now that we have told you that I will undertake this job there is one thing the people should know. If there is to be a conspiracy you will not be warned beforehand. You will suddenly see that a part of the city is disturbed. As soon as the radio announces that your president invites you to be present at a certain location, you should leave whatever you are doing and run. [shouts of"God is great"] Conspirators should understand that we are not bluffing. Our threats rely on the people who are, with the grace of God, all ready. [shouts of "God is great"]

We hope that we will be able to fulfill our commitments during the new year. That is to say, we will serve the deprived and the oppressed as much as we can and as much as is in our power so that when we gather here next year, God willing, all the slums will have disappeared and a part of the wastelands will be cultivated; we will not have any worries about our security and unequality and discrimination will be eliminated, government departments will be working hard and all the people of our country will be happy, and may God almighty make this rejoicing everlasting for the people. May you be happy and victorious since your happiness is a sign of the happiness of the great souls of our martyrs. May our martyrs and our nation be happy and on the day of resurrection may all be present with bright and proud faces while the angels welcome them and tell them: Welcome, you soldiers of man's liberation, you soldiers under the flag of monotheism, soldiers of the followers of Islam. May you, the nation of Islam, and you, the soldiers of Islam, be victorious.

Gonbad Address

LD231755 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 23 Mar 80 LD

[Excerpt] According to a report by the central news unit of the Voice and Profile of the Iranian Islamic Republic, Dr Seyyed Abolhasan Bani-Sadr, our country's president, arrived in Gonbad-e Kavus at about noon today to pay a visit to and to investigate the problems of the Gonbad people. He was welcomed by Hojjat ol-Eslam Nur-Mofidi, the imam's representative in Gongan and Dasht, and a group of Shi'ite and Sunnite clergy and other provincial and regional officials. Dr Bani-Sadr later went to the city's Takhti Stadium, accompanied by the provincial Islamic Revolution prosecutor and the governor general of Mazandaran, and addressed tens of thousands of people from Gonbad and its suburbs.

In his speech Dr Bani-Sadr stated that, under a plan being drafted, governors general as government representatives will be authorized to implement developmental projects in provinces. Dr Bani-Sadr stressed that the governor general is the man responsible in the region on behalf of the government and no other institution is entitled to act arbitrarily; anyone acting arbitrarily will be severely punished.

In another of his remarks Dr Bani-Sadr stated that land should be given to those who work through a commission as laid down by law and under the supervision of the governor general; no one is entitled in any way to interfere with or engage in matters relating to land [other than those authorized under the law]

Departure for Hamadan City

LD241010 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0930 GMT 24 Mar 80 LD

[Text] According to the central news bureau, President Bani-Sadr left for Hamadan this morning to study the local situation and problems. The same report says that Bani-Sadr, president and commander in chief, arrived at Hamadan (?airport), where he was welcomed. After taking part in a radio-television interview this afternoon, President Bani-Sadr is to leave Hamadan for Tehran.

AYATOLLAHS DISCUSS NATIONAL, REGIONAL PROBLEMS

Shari'at-Madari Interview

JN231111 Tehran International Service in Arabic 0710 GMT 23 Mar 80 JN

[From "Iran in the Arab Press" program]

[Excerpts] The magazine SAWT AL-KHALIJ has interviewed Ayatollah Shari'at-Madari. The magazine says: Following the press' repeated distortion of Ayatollah Shari'at-Madari's statements, his eminence issued instructions which said that he will not grant press interviews or state political opinions. This made us ask for a private meeting. These lines are just a private talk with Shari'at-Madari, who has stressed to us that he will not retract his stand concerning press interviews.

Ayatollah Shari'at-Madari told us: During the last 2 years, I have granted more than 300 interviews to the Arab and foreign press. These statements, regrettable, have been distorted, and statements have been attributed to me. This caused many problems for me which I could have done without. That is why I have stated that I shall no longer grant any press interview or state a political opinion. Therefore, I hope that you will consider what will take place between us as a private talk to the magazine SAWT AL-KHALIJ.

We asked Ayatollah Shari'at-Madari about the rumors that there are differences between him and Ayatollah Khomeyni. Ayatollah Shari'at-Madari said: There are absolutely no differences between me and Ayatollah Khomeyni. Both of us are in agreement on basic issues, such as the inevitability of the Islamic Revolution and the establishment of the Government of the Islamic Republic. I had stated this in public on many previous occasions and I had supported all of Ayatollah Khomeyni's measures from the first day. Any differences that exist between us are marginal ones.

I have always stated my opinion on such differences to prevent tendentious people from exploiting these differences in order to harm the revolution. World imperialism and colonialism and their agents, however, always seek means to cause confusion and deal blows to the revolution. I will mention the following example: the incidents that took place on the Friday that preceded Al-Husayn's Arba'in [40th day following a person's death]. As is the custom every year, many delegations from the various cities in Iran, such as Esfahan, Tehran, Shiraz and Tabriz, came to offer their condolences on the Arba'in anniversary. At 11:00 in the morning and while the house's courtyard and nearby alleys were full with delegations, a group attacked these delegations without any reasons or prior warning. Stones were thrown at the delegations, members from nearby rooftops, injuring many and creating a state of confusion. When I was informed of the incident, I issued a call, recorded on videocassete, asking the delegations which came to offer their condolences to remain calm and to disperse.

Ayatollah Khomeyni, in turn, called on the people to remain calm and not to attack one another. Thousands of citizens, who were present, witnessed the incident. Tendentious people and those working against the revolution claimed that it was an act of provocation and sabotage by my group. I am sure that those responsible for the incident are not connected in any manner whatsoever with Ayatollah Khomeyni and that the majority of those who participated in the incidents were ordinary people who had been exploited by the revolution's enemies.

We asked Ayatollah Shari'at-Madari: There are rumors that you are against the rule of men of religion. Is this true and why?

Ayatollah Shari'at-Madari said: We are for the rule of men of religion and rumors contrary to this are groundless. Articles 6 and 56 of the constitution stipulate the people's rule while Article (?110) of the constitution stipulates the rule of men of religion. This made me express fear that this will create duplication on implementation.

We asked Ayatollah Shari'at-Madari: A statement attacking Ayatollah Khomeyni was at the time distributed and attributed to you. Did you know about it?

Ayatollah Shari'at-Madari said: I have no knowledge of the mentioned statement. I denounce and am against such a statement. We have been the victims of many such statements. Our institution, (Dar-at-tabligh), was the target of an attack by the same group, which resulted in the destruction of windows. Other such incidents occured because there are groups acting with the purpose of creating confusion. These groups are unintentionally followed by simple-minded people. I personally do not ask for any special privileges which would urge me to adopt such methods. What I ask is that I shal continue to serve the Islamic nation and do my best to support the Islamic Revolution. I seize this opportunity to ask the Muslims, and the Shi'ites in particular, to discard their differences, unite ranks for the good of Islam, its prosperity and progress.

Montazeri Address

LD221052 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0930 GMT 22 Mar 80 LD

[Text] The seminar of Islamic associations of students in Khuzestan Province, aimed at its own Islamic, revolutionary reconstruction and at investigating the problems of students in that province, began its work in Ahvaz this morning with a message from the crusading jurisconsult His Excellency Montazeri.

In a part of his message, Ayatollah Montazeri said: [Announcer read] In this century the Islamic nation of Iran, thanks to the decisive and sagacious leadership of the great leader of the revolution, His Holiness Imam Khomeyni--may his lofty shadow endure--and at the cost of the blood of tens of thousands of martyrs and injured people, achieved victory and now, on the eve of assuming the caliphate on earth [va aknun dar astane-ye de dast gereftan-e khelafat dar zamin], is facing a special course of events. In particular, our educated young generation is facing new problems which are insoluble except through inspiration from the school of Islamic Revolution and its resounding spirit.

Therefore, the educated youth of today shoulder a momentous responsibility, and should they ignore it, the Islamic Republic would come to grips with a sorry tragedy.

Dear youth, for you, studying is tantamount to an Islamic duty, since our country's self-sufficiency from the standpoint of industry and agricultural production depends on your intellectual and cultural growth, O young saplings of Islam, whereby with the aid of God almighty, you will be able to take up the responsibility of administering the country.

In conclusion, the message of His Excellency Ayatollah Montazeri, the illustrious jurisconsult, addressed to the students, said: [announcer read] Learn a lesson from the bitter experiences of the history of liberation movements in the Islamic world! Study with meticulous care the teachings of the dear leader of the revolution! View the future of the revolution with a vast and profound vision and do not sacrifice tomorrow's interests of this nation, which has risen to its feet and which has fixed its gaze of hope on your Islamic personality, O students, to the whims of well-known groups, whose past is clear to all!

DEVELOPMENTS CONCERNING MAJLES ELECTIONS

Composition of Investigative Committee

LD241740 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1700 GMT 24 Mar 80 LD

[Text] According to the central news bureau, the cultural and press advisor to the president, in a contact with the central news bureau, invited the seven persons who have been chosen by the Revolution Council to investigate the National Consultative Assembly elections to come at the president's office, located inside the building of the Prime Ministry at 0900 hours tomorrow, 25 March.

The delegation members who have been elected by the Revolution Council to investigate the National Consultative Assembly elections are as follows: Dr 'Ali Arad; Dr Asadi-Lari; Shams ale-Ahmad; Hoseyn Khushnevisan; Engineer Yusef Teheri-Qazvini; Hojjat ol-Eslam Hajj Sheykh Mostafa Maleki; and Sajjadian, the former head of the Supreme Court.

Voting Irregularities

LD211121 [Editorial Report LD] There has been wide coverage in the Tehran press of complaints and protests at alleged irregularities and incidents in the connection with the election.

ETTELA'AT in Persian 16 March reports in a 300-word item on page 12 that in various parts of Fars Province a total of 46 ballot boxes were burnt during the elections. The same page carries a statement by the Feda'i-ye Khalq organization protesting about "cheating." Page 2 has a 200-word report on the closure of the Kermanshah bazaar and a tradesmen's strike at the Borujerdi Mosque in Sanandaj in protest at the manner in which the elections were held; threatened strike action by other groups in Kermanshah is mentioned.

KEYHAN 16 March frontpages a 200-word PARS report citing the Marivan "election supervision team" protest to the president about the decision to suspend the election in Marivan on the grounds of the presence of armed groups in the city.

A 1,500-word PARS roundup of the views of various parties and individuals appears on page 12 of the same paper. Former Foreign Minister Yazdi reportedly complained of campaigning taking place illegally on the last day before the election, Hashem Sabbaghian thought that unfair advantage had been taken of the ignorance of illiterates, and that there should have been no campaigning in the vicinity of the polling stations.

Revolution Council member Dr Bahonar, however, thought that the election had taken place "quietly" and had been "well received" by the people. Agreeing with this view, Nuroddin Kianuri, first secretary of the Iran Tudeh Party Central Committee, is reported to have told a PARS correspondent:

"As far as we are aware, the election in both Tehran and the provinces generally proceeded calmly and in an acceptable atmosphere, and on the whole we consider that it was fair. The most important problem at present is counting the votes, for which we must wait, of course. It will be possible to give a clearer opinion after the second round of the election."

Page 11 of KEYHAN 16 March carries a 1,300-word report of an interview by KEYHAN with Deputy Revolution Prosecutor Qadarian about the arrest of 150 Mojahedin-e Khalq and Feda'i-ye Khalq members and supporters on 14 March on charges of cheating in the election.

Voting in Kordestan

LD211427 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 15 Mar 80 p 12 LD

[KEYHAN correspondent report: "Contrary to Announcement by Interior Ministry, Elections Took Place in Saqqez, Baneh, Marivan"]

[Text] Contrary to the announcement by the Interior Ministry postponing the elections in Saqqez, Baneh and Marivan, the poll did take place in these towns.

Spokesman for the Sanandaj branch of the Kurdish Democratic Party [KDP] Rahim Baghdadi announced this to the KEYHAN correspondent and said: "The governors' offices in these towns put out ballot boxes and the people voted. In the resolution contained in the 30-meter-long [as published, but elsewhere in paper said to be 3 meters long] petition telegraphed to the authorities, we said that if elections were not held in Sanandaj on election day we would hold a 12-hour fast.

Since no attention was paid to our demands, while the elections were taking place yesterday across the country a 12-hour hunger strike was staged at the Jame' Mosque in Sanandaj."

Elections Held in Marivan

In a conversation with the KEYHAN correspondent the administrator at the governor's office in Marivan stated:

"Elections took place in Marivan, with people going to the polling stations. At 2030 hours last night the Interior Ministry ordered that the elections be canceled, but we had held the election by that time and the people had finished voting.

"The radio and television mentioned the cancellation of the elections in Marivan, Sanandaj, Saqqez, and Baneh, but we could not go merely by that.

"The Interior Ministry has not yet contacted us and it is not known whether or not it will accept the results of the elections."

The KEYHAN correspondent has also reported from Sanandaj that the council of the headquarters for the coordination of existing forces has been set up in Sanandaj to deal with municipal problems.

Sanjabi on Identification Cards

Tehran TIMES in English 12 Mar 80 p 2 WA

[Text] Elder statesman Dr. Karim Sanjabi yesterday demanded that the voters who have identity cards without photos should not be barred from casting their votes.

Sanjabi who is running in the Islamic Assembly elections from Kermanshah constituency said that the majority of the population of the country is living in rural areas where they have their identity cards without their pictures.

He said that these are the people who have cast their votes at the time of referendum and elections for the president. At that time their votes were valid but now the same votes are being declared as invalid.

He appealed to President Abolhasan Bani-Sadr to intervene in this matter and issue orders eliminating such illegal methods.

CLERGYMAN CALLS FOR DEFENSE OF OIL PIPELINES

GF231710 Abadan National Oil Company Radio in Persian 1115 GMT 23 Mar 80 GF

[Speech by a clergyman Hejazi delivered at Khomeyni Religious Center in Abadan on 22 March--presumably recorded]

[Excerpts] Wake up my sons! [shouts of "God is great!"] I will guard the oil pipelines tomorrow night. I will not allow the counterrevolution to occur. I will not allow U.S. elements or elements of the traitorous, shameful and lowly Ba'th government of Saddam [Husayn] to infiltrate the bastion of our power and independence. [shouts of "God is great!"] Swear upon your lives that you will support and guard this country! You know well that I did not profit from the revolution, but at the same time I profited most. I am still speaking in support of the revolution and Islam as I was doing before. However, now I can express my ideas freely. We are the owners of this country today. We are men today. A hungry nation could cut off the flow of oil to the United States and to the Soviets. We are men. We are opposed to dastardly elements like Saddam Husayn, who says he severed all connections with the United States. However, he is a courtesan of the United States. We will show him that we are men and he is a coward. The future will tell what will happen. [shouts of "God is great!" "Greetings to Khomeyni, greetings to Hejazi!"] Do not waste your energy in fighting each other.

If we practice Islam truly, if we reject capitalism in this country and if we carry the true torch of Islam that the imam has shown us, whoever has strayed from Islam will return. Our comments are directed toward those foreigners who have received blows from our revolution, independence and freedom. Although they cannot fight us directly, they are sending their shameful elements to create anarchy and are spreading poison in our country. We are standing. We are men. We are not like the dirty government in Iraq that hides behind the mask of socialism but follows the path of imperialism and is the chained dog of Margaret Thatcher.

We must support our land, Islam and the Koran. Our land holds the Muslim nation. We are now undergoing an evolutionary process. We have put the year 1358 behind us and are facing a new year in an atmosphere of victory. While you are sitting here some of your body cells are dying and other new cells are forming. The same thing should happen to our country. The old cells of the former regime should die and other new and young cells from the revolution should replace them. We are in an evolutionary stage. We are celebrating Now Ruz [Iranian new year] as we celebrate our evolution. As the natural evolution is occurring we should initiate a process of self-evolution [words indistinct]. My sons, some people want to divert our evolution and are creating obstacles along God's path. We are evolving toward God. I do not know what they say. Some people are trying to divert us from our path, and I have heard a dirty rumor that some groups want to change our great Islamic ideas. Some political groups said the tragic event at the Rex-Theater in Abadan was planned by the clergy. I thank all offspring of aryamehr [the shah] and all good children of Carter! His word is the final word: [as heard] thousands of honest and clean youths of Abadan were burned to death by the clergy!

We are in an evolutionary stage, the evolution of the new year [words indistinct] and be sure that, God willing, our victory will be finalized in the near future. [shouts of "God willing!" There are too many questions for me to answer now. [shouts of "Greetings to Khomeyni, greetings to Hejazi!" One of the questions was: "Please ask the radio not to censor your comments." Another question from the audience was: "We want to work as guards, but our parents are preventing us from guarding the oil pipelines. Please try to advise them." Well, of course, parents have no right to stop you, because this is a solemn duty. However, you must ask the Revolution Guards Corps. I will be here tomorrow night and we will begin our duties as guardsmen. There is no need to get permission from your parents. It is a solemn duty, and in a solemn duty there is no need for permission from your father or mother. [shouts of "God is great!"] Gentlemen, I will examine your questions and will answer them tomorrow night.

ECONOMIC ISSUES REPORTED, DISCUSSED

Prices of Consumer Goods

Tehran TIMES in English 9 Mar 80 p 2 WA

[Text] Tehran--The Price Control Guild, following the line of imam, yesterday announced that arrangements have been made to check the prices of consumer goods on the eve of Now Ruz starting from March 21. The guild said that mobile checking teams to control the prices of consumer goods have been appointed and they will remain in most of the main shopping centers to listen to the complaints of consumers.

The guild said that special teams have been posted where fruits, sweetmeats and dresses are sold and asked tnat consumers should contact the mobile price control teams who will take prompt action in case of complaints.

The guild also appealed to shopkeepers that they should keep their prices up to the mark and warned that in case of over pricing strict action will be taken against them.

The guild recently cracked down on a number of shopkeepers in various parts of the capital to discourage profiteering which brought criticism from retailers.

Several shops were closed down and shopkeepers were lashed publicly because they were overcharging on the prices of their goods.

The retailers said that the real defect does not lie with them but with the wholesalers who sell the goods at higher prices. In some cases the retailers showed receipts for the goods they bought from the wholesalers and proved that they (retailers) were not charging high prices.

The retailers appealed to the guild that they should first control the wholesalers which is the only way to supply consumer goods at reasonable prices to the consumers.

Shortages of Goods

Tehran TIMES in English 12 Mar 80 p 2 WA

[Editorial: "Consumer Goods, Prices and Policies"]

[Text] Battening down prices in an economy that is moving into a steady inflationary spiral is one way of keeping the people happy at the approach of the new Iranian year--Now Ruz. President Bani-Sadr called a meeting of the bazaar merchants on Tuesday and addressed them frankly but, as it appears to us, not cinvincingly enough on the economic issues that continue to afflict the nation.

We endorse the president's appeal to the wholesale merchants and traders in the nation to play fair by the consumers by not hoarding and keeping prices of commodities on level, but this is not an overall solution, or a satisfying one by itself. Why is there any hoarding at all, and why the unbridled increases in prices?

A constriction in the inflow of goods is one likely reason and another is anticipated scarcities as a result of the government's expected curb on imports of certain categories of goods. In the latter case the price increases would reflect mostly on the category of goods which are considered luxuries and, therefore, inessential.

Prices going up for luxuries have to be expected as a natural consequence of the change in attitudes and polices. But the essential commodity scarcities present another picture altogether and one that calls for action on the government's part. The shortages as for items like meat and eggs have been brought on by sheer mismanagement of the import control policies in regard to these. The government has kept making promises of restoring the situation without any justifiable explanation for the almost complete standstill in their imports.

There are probably a whole host of factors of which the public is unaware but has a right to be aware of. The economic blockade is one such explanation which the government puts forward and expects the public to be patient with because it is tied to foreign policy matters, which are yet no near to solution. But this does not satisfy us either, nor does it the public who are directly affected. For example if supplies of meat and eggs were suspended by one country, it would surely have been possible for government to have acted with promptitude in transferring to other suppliers who would have more confidence in the nation's economy. Our Third World friends would surely have been of assistance, even if the West, not relying on our payments positions, refused to honor earlier contract.

Chemicals for the manufacture of washing soap is another case in point. How the shortages came about we are not competent to really say but the fact is easy to see that there are dozens of Third World countries who have all the technical know-how, the chemicals and raw materials for the manufacture of this item in their own home markets. We have no doubt that they could, if they had been approached have helped us with our requirements at competitive prices, to tide over the present difficulties we are faced with in the manufacture of the product.

We do not wish to be unfair by the president and his team who, we must say in fairness to them, are making every effort to see these problems in the best light and bring in solutions but have been hampered by a lack of decisiveness, or by an almost anarchic handling of affairs lower down the scale of government.

The president quite rightly said in his address to the merchants that it would not do for us to lay the blame for all our woes at the doors of imperialism. On the contrary, as he said, our lack of willingness to tackle problems intelligently and with hard work will only assist imperialism in its cause by seeing us depressed, divided and weak in our inability to take a grip on our internal problems. The nation waits hopefully yet, and in the meantime in the matter of bread and meat, for which the president said he had a plan which he would reveal in about a week, we wait to see whether he would be as good as his word.

VIOLENCE, UNREST REPORTED, DISCUSSED

Demonstration by Piranshah Unemployed

LD211826 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 21 Mar 80 LD

[Text] According to a PARS NEWS AGENCY report from Sanandaj, received at noon today, the situation in the city and in other cities and regions of Kordestan Province has been calm during the past 24 hours. According to the same report, quite a few New Year holiday makers can be seen in Sanandaj.

According to a report from the central news unit in Urumiyeh, hundreds of umemployed workers in the town of Piranshah [in Kordestan] held a march demanding job security. Carrying picks and shovels they passed through several avenues in the town and then assembled in the public square. By issuing a seven-point resolution they made their demands public. The points of the resolution are as follows:

1. The arch-enemy of the people of Iran is the world-devouring U.S. imperialism.
2. We demand the creation of jobs and industry for the benefit of workers.
3. We demand land, seeds, agricultural implements for the benefit of the poor peasantry.
4. We demand an end to unemployment among the workers and call for the creation of jobs in the region.
5. We demand the arrest and revolutionary trial of counterrevolutionaries and reactionaries in the region.
6. Sowing division within the ranks of the workers, in any form whatsoever, will help the cause of the capitalists and their imperialist masters, particularly U.S. imperialism.
7. We declare our unstinting support for the delegation of the Kurdish people [visiting Tehran for talks]

Arab Protest in Ahvaz

JN221521 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1445 GMT 22 Mar 80 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 22 March--A huge demonstration in which hundreds of Arab citizens took part roamed the streets of Al-Muhammarah [Khorramshahr] in Ahvaz the day before yesterday. The demonstrators condemned the present ruling regime in Iran. News reports received from there say that the demonstrators then marched in a long procession toward the (Sa'idan) Cemetery, carrying posters glorifying the souls of Arab martyrs. The demonstrators laid wreaths on the tombs of the Arab martyrs, who were the victims of the regime's despotism. Speeches were then delivered, demanding autonomous rule for Arabistan and recognition of the national rights of the Arab citizens in Ahvaz.

News reports say that last Wednesday, Arab citizens blew up a bookshop belonging to one of Khomeyni's followers, completely destroying the shop and killing its owner.

On 14 March, Arab citizens in the region of Darband executed the death sentence against traitor Hoseyn 'Abd 'Ashuri, for giving the ruling Khomeyni regime information about the Arab citizens' activities in Ahvaz. On the same day, Arab citizens placed an explosive charge in the residence of 'Abbud Sa'idi for the second time in 1 week, but Khomeyni's authorities defused the charge shortly after it was placed.

In Jazireh-ye Salbukh, Arab citizens fired upon a traitor, hitting him with four bullets. He was then taken to hospital.

In the city of (Anfishk), a group of umemployed people staged a sit-in strike in one of the city's mosques, demanding suitable work opportunities. The news reports add that the strikers then went out in a large demonstration toward the headquarters of Khomeyni's guards, who encountered them with extreme savagery, which led to the injury of 65 persons.

In Arabistan, a group of young people from Arabistan attacked the headquarters of Khomeyni's courts and elections stations, engaging the guards in fierce fighting for over an hour.

Khuzestan Organization Statement

JN231412 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1300 GMT 23 Mar 80 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 23 March--The political organization of the Arab people in Arabistan [Khuzestan] has condemned the policy of intimidation pursued by Khomeyni's regime against the strugglers of Arabistan. The organization recently distributed a statement in which it mourned one of its leader martyrs named Husayn 'Abu 'Ashur, who was executed by the Iranian authorities at the beginning of this month.

It said that the execution of martyr Husayn 'Abu 'Ashur, because of his belief in his Arabism and his people's rights, was a crime not only against the martyr but against all strugglers in Arabistan.

The organization added that in its suppressive campaigns against the strugglers of Arabistan, the Khomeyni regime follows the same methods used by the deposed shah against the national forces in Iran. It affirmed that the Khomeyni authorities' crimes against the honorable people show beyond doubt how unconcerned these authorities are about the Iranian peoples' legitimate rights.

In its statement, the organization called on the people of Arabistan to escalate their struggle against the Khomeyni regime and to express their legitimate rights. It also called on them to demonstrate solidarity with the other nationalities in their struggle for freedom.

Urumiyeh Division's Statement

LD241824 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 24 Mar 80 LD

[Text] In connection with recent clashes in several villages in the administrative region of Urumiyeh, the Urumiyeh 64th Infantry Division has issued the following statement:

Dear compatriots, valiant citizens of Western Azarbayjan, as you know, on 22 March illegal armed elements attacked gendarmerie posts in Awojbolagh, Sarazhan and Sirvana. This attack was beaten back by the Muslim and patriotic people of the region. But the traitorous elements, having gathered traitorous and mercenary Kurdish elements, launched a more extensive attack against the said posts on 23 March, as a result of which the Awojbolagh post fell at 2100 on 23 March and a number of gendarmerie members and Kurdish warriors [javanmardan] serving in the gendarmerie were captured with their arms and equipment. Two people were martyred and three others wounded by the assailants. The gendarmerie elements have been evacuated to Oshnoviyeh by responsible officials.

In the light of the foregoing situation, the Urumiyeh 64th Division will once again put the matter to the judgement of the noble citizens of Western Azarbaijan and it points out that the army will not allow any political group to engage in military activity, particularly armed activity. The national army, the police and the gendarmerie are now a revolutionary institution, as the imam has commanded; it is their direct responsibility and duty to safeguard the Islamic Revolution of Iran; and any aggression against any revolutionary institution is an aggression also against other revolutionary institutions, and, in the final analysis, an aggression against the revolution. The army will not only not tolerate it but will not even allow such acts of aggression.

The command of the leader of the revolution specifies that any aggression against military and security installations is a purely counterrevolutionary action. The cunning warmongers and double-faced cowards are hereby notified that unless the arrested personnel and the weapons seized from the Awojbolagh, Sarazhan and Sirvana post are returned by 1200 25 March and the damage to the posts and houses is made good and the property looted is returned not later than 2 weeks from today, the army, in a determined and decisive manner, will carry out the duty entrusted to it by the Iranian people and proceed to recapture the dendarmerie posts and arrest the illegal elements and deliver them to the offices of public prosecution of the Islamic revolution.

Governor on Recent Disturbances

LD241838 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 24 Mar 80 LD

[Text] According to the PARS NEWS AGENCY, in connection with the recent provocations in West Azarbayjan the governor-general of West Azarbayjan issued a statement today and asked the people of the province to neutralize once again the sinister plots of the enemy by their revolutionary alertness and monolithic unity and by avoiding clashes among themselves. The statement says: Any person who offers you arms or to sell you ammunition during this sensitive period is certainly planning for you to kill your brave children and brothers with your own hands instead of guarding and assisting you. Therefore, avoid accepting such gifts and, as the culmination of the first stage of the Majles election under the freedom offered by the Islamic Republic of Iran, is like a thorn in the eyes of our enemies, let us try to go through the second stage of the elections with the same calm and freedom. For this you must prove your revolutionary maturity and try to resolve any differences in ideas and other problems only through negotiation and compromise.

The governor-general of West Azarbayjan in this statement emphasized: It is necessary for the army and gendarmerie units of the Islamic Republic of Iran to watch the situation carefully, and I call upon committed and concerned people to identify the individuals causing disturbances and provocations and also the plotters, and to introduce them to the responsible authorities, so that the traitors will be punished decisively according to the law.

Release of Tabriz Prisoners

LD241918 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 24 Mar 80 LD

[Text] Hojjat ol-Eslam Seyyed Hoseyn Mosavi, president of Tabriz Islamic Revolution Court, held a telephone conversation with a PARS reporter in Tabriz this evening. He said: In implementing the amnesty decree of Imam Khomeyni, the illustrious leader of the revolution and the founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran, 32 people who had been condemned by this court because of their cooperation with the previous regime, became eligible for the imam's amnesty and were released from prison.

The president of the Islamic Revolution Court of Tabriz added: No one has been arrested or imprisoned in Tabriz and its suburbs during the Now Ruz [New Year] period.

More Releases; 'Spy's' Arrest

LD241919 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 24 Mar 80 LD

[Text] According to the PARS NEWS AGENCY, 100 people who had been arrested during recent incidents in Andimeshk have been released according to the same report, 110 people had been arrested during the clashes in Andimeshk. The files of the other 10 are being investigated.

Dezful Revolution Guards Corps reported to PARS in Ahvaz that Sheykh Ya'qub Sa'di, known as Sheykh Ya'qub the Iraqi spy, the importer of arms and explosives and the notorious murderer, was arrested by the members of Dezful Revolution Guards Corps following a series of clashes. His arrest came after a 1-hour clash during which he was wounded.

REPORTAGE ON SITUATION IN KORDESTAN PROVINCE

Economic Sanctions Against Kurds

NC231035 Paris AFP in English 1004 GMT 23 Mar 80 NC

[Excerpt] Tehran, March 23 (AFP)--Revolutionary Guards and pro-government Kurdish militia are stepping up economic sanctions against the Kordestan provincial capital of Sanandaj, Kurdish groups contacted in the town said today.

"There are some shortages of medicines and food and they are getting worse", a spokesman for the banned Iranian Kordestan Democratic Party (KDP) told AFP, and the extreme left wing Feda'i-ye Khalq movement said they were short of some medicines and vegetable oil.

Reports from Paveh and Nosud southwest of Sanandaj said that because of similar sanctions residents were having to use heating oil from Iraq costing 22 times its normal price.

The IKDP spokesman said that the Revolutionary Guards and militia were blocking supply lorries to Sanandaj at other towns they controlled, including Kamyaran to the south, Miyandab to the northwest and Bijar to the northeast. He added there was no evidence as yet of an Interior Ministry plan to replace local police in the town with troops.

Release of Hostages

LD231815 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 23 Mar 80 LD

[Text] According to the PARS NEWS AGENCY eight of the hostages captured during the recent Kordestan clashes and kept in Sardasht were transferred to Urumiyeh yesterday evening and then sent to the cities where they live with the assistance of facilities provided by the governor general of West Azarbayjan. The names of the hostages are as follows:

Name	City of Residence
Homayun Honarkar	Tehran
Mohammad Mohammadjani	Miandu'ab
Gholam Reza Dastiari	Tehran
Ahmad Kiani	Esfahan
'Ali Akbar Khorrami	Esfahan
'Azizollah Baba'i	Esfahan
'Ali Mardan Amirlu	Esfahan
Mohammad 'Asgari	Tehran

These people were released following the activities of the Kordestan special delegation.

'RELATIVELY STRONG' EARTHQUAKE OCCURS IN KHVOY

LD251102 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0930 GMT 25 Mar 80 LD

[Text] According to the central news bureau in Urumiyeh, at 0930 this morning, a relatively strong earthquake shook the town of Khvoy, and people rushed out of their houses. We have not yet had any report of the damage to property and or loss of life caused by the quake.

AZADEGAN CRITICIZED FOR DEFAMING PROMINENT PERSONS

Tehran TIMES in English 12 Mar 80 p 1 WA

[Text] Tehran--National Guidance Minister Dr. Naser Minachi yesterday indicted the morning Farsi daily newspaper AZADEGAN for defaming the prestige and integrity of certain prominent persons.

In an indictment letter addressed to the prosecutor of Tehran, Minachi said that an unidentified society apparently antagonistic to the Freemason Society had published a long list of Freemasions' names including various government and ministry officials in a bid to harrass and threaten them.

The list released by the society had been published by the AZADEGAN newspaper without checking or confirming its authenticity, Minachi said.

He said the society fighting the Freemasons had announced the names in order to make revelations relating to persons who were dismissed from government service.

Minachi in his indictment letter urged the prosecutor to make a thorough probe into the activities of the unidentified society and take necessary action against the said newspaper for causing damage to the reputations of prominent personalities.

REPORTAGE ON INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS

Casualties in Afghanistan Fighting

JN230656 Tehran International Service in Arabic 0600 GMT 23 Mar 80 JN

[Text] A group of Afghan revolutionaries claimed today that they have killed 214 Soviet and Afghan soldiers in the clashes that took place in Kabul's suburbs this month.

The Afghan Islamic Party in Pakistan stated that party members succeeded in destroying 17 transport vehicles belonging to the Afghan Army on the Kabul-Paktia main road.

The party also stated that three party members had been killed so far.

Muslim Victories in Afghanistan

JN231835 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 23 Mar 80 JN

[Text] The Islamic revolutionary movement in Afghanistan has announced that the Muslim fighters have attacked and occupied the headquarters of the governor of (Taqwa), in the Afghan District of Farah. The attack also resulted in the death of 4 Soviet soldiers, the capture of 21 others and the confiscation of 164 rifles and 12,000 rounds.

In another report, the Muslim fighters belonging to the Revolutionary Islamic Liberation Movement have battled the Soviet troops in the (Mad 'Ali) area, in the Nimruz District. The fighters destroyed a tank with RPG shells and occupied the police post in the area. The battle also resulted in the wounding of a number of government soldiers.

Bani-Sadr Proposal for Commission

AU211730 Rome ANSA in English 1615 GMT 21 Mar 80 AU

[Text] Tehran, March 21 (ANSA)--Iranian President Abolhasan Bani-Sadr today proposed the creation of an international commission to ascertain whether it was true that the Soviet military intervention in Afghanistan was provoked, as Moscow claims, by the need to combat U.S. interference in the internal affairs of that nation.

Bani-Sadr called the Soviet intervention "intolerable". "We cannot suffer the fact that an Islamic nation has been invaded by foreigners", he said. "The Soviets must go, otherwise they will be kicked out by the struggle that the Afghan people will wage, aided by all of Islam", he said.

The proposal for a commission was launched by Bani-Sadr during an address to tens of thousands of persons gathered at the Behesht-e Zahra Cemetery on the outskirts of Tehran, the burial site of victims of the popular insurrection that toppled the regime of Shah Reza Pahlavi last year.

The USSR claims that the U.S. was seeking to penetrate Afghanistan, Bani-Sadr [said]. If this is true, the Soviets must agree to the idea of an investigating commission made up of five nations, he continued. Bani-Sadr mentioned Iran, Algeria, Palestine, Sweden and a Latin American state, in this connection. Only if the commission found proof of real U.S. penetration in Afghanistan could the Soviet military intervention find a glimmer of justification, Bani-Sadr said.

The Iranian leader said that Soviet and American imperialism were two sides of a single problem. The Islamic peoples and the Third World must act in unison for their liberation, he said.

Bani-Sadr then turned to the internal situation in Iran and particularly to the guerrilla warfare underway in Kordestan. The autonomy of Kordestan could be discussed, he said, but only after the Kurds lay down their arms. If, instead, they insist on fighting, Bani-Sadr said he would be forced to appeal to all revolutionary forces to help put down the rebellion.

He then underscored Iran's economic problems and exhorted the people to work harder and to eschew controversies.

Prior to Bani-Sadr's speech, Sayed Ahmed Khomeyni addressed the crowd, reading a message from his father Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni.

Tabataba'i on Afghan Rebels

LD211236 Hamburg DPA in German 1119 GMT 21 Mar 80 LD

[Text] Bonn--Iran supports the Afghan resistance fighters in their struggle against the Soviet occupiers. This was stated in Bonn today by state secretary Sadeq Tabataba'i of the office of the Iranian prime minister at a symposium of the Friedrich Ebert Foundation, which is close to the SPD. Tabataba'i added that his country assists as a matter of principle all liberation movements whose struggle is directed against oppression and injustice. This is in accordance with Islamic ideology.

Iran condemns the hegemonist aspirations of the USSR just as it does U.S. imperialism the fate of the U.S. hostages will be decided by Parliament once it has been elected. The state secretary reiterated the Iranian accusation that the U.S. Embassy was a "nest of spies." However, this probably applies also to the Soviet Embassy in Tehran. The difference is that, unlike the U.S. mission, the Soviet Embassy cannot be proven guilty.

Concerning his country's economic situation Tabataba'i said that in future agriculture will be given high priority. Iran wants to raise agricultural output within a few years to such a level that foreign aid would be unnecessary. The aim is to become again an agricultural export country as it was 20 years ago. In future Iran will cover its energy requirements mainly from indigenous natural gas and solar energy. Iranian oil will be mainly used as a raw material for the petrochemical industry. Tabataba'i promised German firms engaged in foreign trade that his countries will observe all newly concluded agreements.

Iraqi Kurd's Message to Khomeyni

LD221744 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 22 Mar 80 LD

[Text] According to PARS, Mas'ud Barzani, the leader of the Kurdish Democratic Party of Iraq, has sent a telegram to the imam of the nation congratulating him on the occasion of the New Year. The text of the telegram is the following:

To the esteemed presence of His Great Eminence Ayatollah Khomeyni, the leader of the glorious Islamic Revolution of the nation of Iran. On behalf of the Political Bureau, members and Peshmerga of the Kurdish Democratic Party of Iraq and the Kurdish nation in Iraq and myself, I congratulate Your Eminence on the occasion of Now Ruz. We pray to the almighty God for the health of Your Eminence to lead the noble nation of Iran and support the oppressed people of the world, including the Kurdish nation of Iraq. May the foundations of the Islamic Republic of Iran become stronger each day in its struggle against imperialism, Zionism and the area's reactionaries headed by U.S. imperialism.

We hope that after the victory of the elections for the National Consultative Assembly, peace, security and welfare of the nation of Iran is provided for more than ever and all the national and progressive forces of Iran commit themselves to the final fulfillment of the revolution and the Islamic Republic and achieve all its objectives under the leadership of Your Eminence since this is the will of all Muslims and patriotic and freedom fighters of the world.

Kurdish Congratulations to Bani-Sadr

JN230821 Tehran International Service in Arabic 0500 GMT 23 Mar 80 JN

[Text] Dr Abolhasan Bani-Sadr, president of the Islamic Republic of Iran, has received a cable of congratulations from Mas'ud Barzani, leader of the Kurdish Democratic Party in Iraq, on the occasion of the Now Ruz. The following is the text of the cable: Your Excellency esteemed Dr Abolhasan Bani-Sadr, president of the Islamic Republic of Iran: On behalf of the Political Bureau of the Kurdish Democratic Party in Iraq, the Kurdish people in Iraq and myself, I congratulate you on the occasion of Now Ruz, wishing the Iranian Muslim people more prosperity, happiness and stability under your good offices and in the wake of the Islamic National Consultative council's elections.

We hope that the Islamic Republic of Iran will daily score quick and decisive successes in its struggle against imperialism, Zionism and reaction in the area and that all patriotic and progressive forces in Iran will unite to score a complete victory for the revolution and the Islamic Republic of Iran and achieve the aspirations sought by the world's patriotic and liberated forces.